

UNIT 13: BUCARELI BAY

MANAGEMENT INTENT

State lands will be managed to encourage development of forestry resources while avoiding major impacts on fish and wildlife habitat and harvest and recreation values.

State Uplands: The state selection at Port Dolores will be managed for limited community development, and land disposal after 1993. Port Dolores has fewer resource conflicts than other areas considered for remote land disposal. A small community based on recreation or commercial fishing is intended.

Before authorizing individual activities, the department will reserve sufficient uplands for community use adjacent to waters determined to have the best anchorages. These uplands will be managed for community and commercial water-dependent and water-related activities, such as public docks. Sufficient lands will be reserved for future community center and public facilities, such as schools, community buildings, public utility, health care facilities, public safety and fire protection headquarters, sewage treatment plants, community parks, a post office, and commercial uses. Siting, timing, or other appropriate stipulations should be attached to minimize negative impacts on existing fish and wildlife habitat and harvest values. Potential community water sources and watersheds should be identified during land disposal planning and managed to protect long-term use.

Unit guidelines address specific objections to residential development at Port Dolores by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The ADF&G is concerned about impacts to anadromous fish streams, increased human-bear encounters from a new community, cumulative impacts on existing fish and wildlife harvest, and increased costs of management to the ADF&G. See Chapter 4 for additional selection information at Port Dolores.

State Tidelands and Submerged Lands: Parts of the four largest bays opening into Bucareli Bay will be managed to accommodate timber harvest support activities. Resource development support facilities should be located either at Port San Antonio or at Port Asumcion to serve both areas unless it is determined that sites at each location would be a more feasible and prudent alternative considering impacts to upland and marine fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas. The remainder of the coastline, including all the open coastline along Bucareli Bay, will be managed for the preservation of fish and wildlife habitat and harvest uses and recreation values.

The U.S. Forest Service anticipates the need for a permanent timber transfer site at Fortaleza Bay. Forestry is designated a secondary use in Fortaleza Bay to reflect concern for potential conflict between resource transfer activities and crucial habitat. The Department of Fish and Game believes more site specific information based on field studies is required to determine whether the bay is large enough to accommodate resource transfer facilities without causing unacceptable impacts on two salmon streams that enter the bay. These concerns are recognized, and management decisions will abide by the Forest Practices Regulations (11 AAC 95.150(c)). These regulations require

ADF&G approval in writing for a LTF or storage site within 300 feet of an anadromous fish stream or areas important for fish spawning or rearing.

Habitat is designated a secondary use in some important fish and wildlife habitat or harvest areas (Hc). This will be considered in siting and managing all activities directly related to shore-attached facilities where there are primary designations for forestry and mining. Appropriate siting or operating stipulations (which may include timing restrictions) will be considered to mitigate negative impacts on the habitat resources and to meet the management intent for this unit. Even where habitat is designated a secondary use in important fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas (Hc), it will be managed as a primary use when reviewing proposals for uses that are not directly related to or necessary for the operation of a shore-attached facility where there is a primary designation of forestry or mining. The important habitat resources in this unit are waterfowl and seabird concentration areas. Shrimp and Dungeness and king crab are present in Port San Antonio. Port Asumcion has waterfowl and seabird concentration areas, shrimp and Dungeness crab are present, and it is a commercial harvest area for abalone.

Because of lack of information on the resource values of the submerged lands in Bucareli Bay, that area will be classified Resource Management until there is enough information to warrant a more specific classification.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY USES

Refer to the land use designation map for primary and secondary uses and fish and wildlife ratings.

PROHIBITED USES

- Mineral location in mapped crucial fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas.
- Filling state tidelands and submerged lands for residential purposes.
- Floathomes in mapped crucial fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Refer to Chapter 2 for guidelines common to this and all management units. The following guidelines apply to this specific unit.

- **Public Access from Port San Antonio to Dalton Hot Springs.** Public access across tidelands to the existing footpath and the potential trail from the south arm of Port San Antonio to Dalton Hot Springs will not be precluded.
- **Public Access from Port San Antonio to Siketi Sound.** Public access across tidelands to the potential trail from the north arm of Port San Antonio to Siketi Sound will not be precluded.

- **Anchorage.** Use of anchorages depicted on the land use designation map will not be precluded.
- **Developed Recreation Facilities in Crucial Habitat and Harvest Areas.** Based on available information, developed recreation facilities are initially determined incompatible within mapped crucial fish and wildlife areas. A specific proposal for a developed recreation facility may be considered for compatibility based on its design or on new habitat information.
- **Resource Transfer Site in Port Asumcion.** If resource transfer facilities are located in Port Asumcion, only one permanent site will be accommodated in either of the two areas where forestry is designated as a primary use unless it is determined that use of two areas is a more feasible and prudent alternative considering impacts to upland and marine fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas. If a second site is proposed, an evaluation of the cumulative impacts of the proposed facilities on the fish and wildlife habitat in Port Asumcion will be specifically required.
- **Resource Transfer Site in Port Dolores.** Only one permanent site for resource transfer will be accommodated at Port Dolores unless it is determined that use of more than one site is a more feasible and prudent alternative considering impacts to upland and marine fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas.
- **Resource Transfer Site in Port Santa Cruz.** Only one permanent site for resource transfer will be accommodated at Port Santa Cruz unless it is determined that use of more than one site is a more feasible and prudent alternative considering impacts to upland and marine fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas. If a second site is proposed, an evaluation of the cumulative impacts of the proposed facilities on the fish and wildlife habitat in the bay will be specifically required.
- **Land Disposal Consultation.** The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the communities of Craig, Klawock, and Hydaburg will be consulted during land disposal planning to identify and address their concerns.
- **Anadromous Fish Stream Buffers.** Impacts on local anadromous fish streams will be minimized by use of Chapter 2 Stream Corridor guidelines. Public retained buffers for fish habitat management will be at least 300 feet on each side of the ordinary mean high water mark.
- **Waste Disposal Site.** To minimize increases in human-bear encounters a solid-waste disposal site approved by DEC will be identified before offering land for sale. The waste disposal site should be identified before the 1994 selection deadline for possible selection from the National Forest. Management for the site should be transferred to the local community organization.

NOTES

FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Twenty-five anadromous fish stream outlets are located in this unit. The lake system near Fortaleza Bay has identified potential for sockeye production. The unnamed stream in Aquada Cove on Suemez Island (Section 20) has not yet been surveyed to find whether it is anadromous.

The north arm of Port San Antonio receives very high use by waterfowl and seabirds and contains productive coastal wetlands. All five major bays support crab and shrimp populations. Port San Antonio supports king and Dungeness crab. Port Dolores supports commercial Dungeness crab harvest.

Much of the coastline supports commercial and subsistence harvests of abalone. A high intensity seine and troll fishery is conducted around Cape Felix and southwest Suemez Island.